



The Tale of the Two Pumpkin Seeds

Once upon a time, in a cozy farmhouse nestled among golden fields, two eager children, a boy and a girl, waited for their papa to begin their favorite autumn story. They loved this tale, not only because it was thrilling but also because it had no lessons to learn at the end, just pure fun!

The story began each year when the leaves turned orange and the farmers harvested plump pumpkins. It was about two little pumpkin seeds – one good and humble, dreaming of becoming a delicious pie for Thanksgiving, and the other, a naughty and vain seed, wanting to be a morning-glory, the prettiest flower in the garden.

The farmer planted these seeds in the home-patch. While the good seed grew happily, dreaming of pies, the naughty seed was busy plotting to reach the fence covered in morning-glories. It struggled and pushed, hiding among the weeds and veggies, to finally reach the fence. It was hard work! The vine became so thin it was almost like a thread, and its only blossom was small and weak. But it didn't give up. It clung to the fence, determined to be a pumpkin-glory.

Meanwhile, the good pumpkin seed turned into a big, beautiful pumpkin, filled with golden sweetness, perfect for pies. The farmer was so proud of it that he even won a prize at the county fair!

Thanksgiving Day arrived, and the farmhouse was bustling with joy. Relatives came from near and far, filling the house with laughter and stories. The children played merrily while the grown-ups prepared a feast.

In the barn, the farmer's son found the naughty pumpkin hanging on the fence, looking funny with its long, stretched neck. It was so odd

that he decided to turn it into a jack-o'-lantern, a pumpkin-glory, for a special surprise. He carved a face on it, with a big, wide grin.

That evening, as the moon rose, the children and their parents gathered around the glowing pumpkin-glory, laughing and enjoying its silly face. But in a sudden twist, the pumpkin cracked open with a big smile, startling everyone, especially the grandmother! Just then, the family pig, hungry for a treat, dashed out and gobbled up the pumpkin-glory, candle and all!

The children were quiet after the story ended, pondering its meaning. "Does this story have a moral, papa?" asked the boy.

"Not really," replied their papa, smiling. "Unless it's about not being too ambitious, or you might end up like the pumpkin-glory, eaten by a pig instead of becoming a delightful pie!"

The little girl thought for a moment and then said, "There's a big difference between being eaten at a lovely Thanksgiving dinner and being gobbled up by a pig!"

"Indeed, there is," laughed their papa, and with that, he darted out of the room, leaving the children giggling and thinking about the pumpkin seeds' adventures.